AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A polymer composition comprising glycolic acid (GA) as a co-polymer with at least one other bioresorbable monomer, or a functional derivative of said co-polymer, having a tensile strength of at least 1100MPa.

2. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, in which there are two bioresorbable monomers.

3. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition as claimed in claim [1in] 1, in which the at least one other bioresorbable monomer is polylactic acid (PLA).

4. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, in which the at least one other bioresorbable monomer is poly L-lactic acid (PLA).

5. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition as claimed ~~inclaim~~ in claim 1, in which the GA composition is at least 70% glycolic acid.

6. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 5 in, which the GA composition is at least 75, 80, 85, 90 or 95% glycolic acid.

7. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 4, in which the polymer composition is around 95% glycolic acid.

8. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 4, in which the polymer composition is around 98% glycolic acid.

9. (Previously Presented) An artefact comprising strengthened glycolic acid polymer composition as claimed in claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, in which the fibres have a tensile modulus of at least 20GPa.

11. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, in which the fibres have a tensile modulus of at least 21GPa.

12. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition as claimed claim 1, in which the fibres have a tensile modulus of at least 220GPa.

13. (Currently Amended) A process for the manufacture of a polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, which includes the steps of:

a) forming the polymer composition comprising glycolic acid as a copolymer with at least one other bioresorbable monomer, or a functional derivative thereof, into fibre;

b) quenching the fibres; and

c) thereafter subjecting the quenched fibres to a tension under conditions whereby a defined region of the tensioned fibres is drawn.

14. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 13, in which the fibre forming method is melt extrusion or solution spinning.

15. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 13, in which the quenched, tensioned fibres are subjected to zone-heating.

16. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 13, in which the quenched, tensioned fibres are subjected to at least two separate drawing steps, each drawing step performed under identical or different conditions.

17. (Currently Amended) An artefact comprising a polymer composition, or [a] the functional derivative thereof according to claim 1 ~~or when produced by a process according to claim 13~~.

18. (Previously Presented) The artefact of claim 17 comprising at least two polymer components.

19. (Currently Amended) The artefact of claim 18 comprising 10% to 80% by volume the polymer composition or [a] the functional derivative ~~thereof according to claim 1 or when produced by a process according to claim 13~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The artefact of claim 17, in which at least one of the polymer components is bioresorbable.

21. (Currently Amended) The artefact of claim 20, in which the bioresorbable polymer comprises a poly-hydroxy acid, a poly-lactic acid, a poly-caprolactone, a poly-acetal or a poly-anhydride.

22. (Previously Presented) The artefact of claim 17 comprising at least one non-bioresorbable polymer component.

23. (Previously Presented) The artefact of claim 22 in which the non-bioresorbable polymer comprises poly-propylene, poly-ethylene, poly-methyl methacrylate or expoxy resin.

24. (Previously Presented) The artefact of claim 17 further containing at least one non-polymeric component.

25. (Currently Amended) The artefact of claim 24, in which the non-polymeric component comprises a ceramic, hydroxyapatite or tricalcium phosphate.

26. (Currently Amended) The artefact of claim 25, in which the non-polymeric component comprises a bioactive factor.

27. (Currently Amended) The artefact of claim 26, in which the bioactive component comprises a natural or engineered protein, a ribonucleic acid, a deoxyribonucleic acid, a growth factor, a cytokine, an angiogenic factor or an antibody.

28. (Currently Amended) The artefact according to claim 17, in which the artefact is in the form of a medical device.

29. (Currently Amended) The artefact of claim 28, in which the device is a suture, a scaffold for tissue engineering or implantation, an orthopaedics implant, a complex shaped device or a bone fixation device.

30. (Currently Amended) A process to manufacture [an] <u>of the</u> artefact according to claim 17, comprising the steps of:

a) placing appropriate lengths of strengthened glycolic acid polymer composition ~~as according to claim 1~~ <u>comprising glycolic acid (GA) as the co-polymer with the at least one</u>

other bioresorbable monomer, or the functional derivative of said co-polymer, having the tensile strength of at least 1100MPa, into moulds;

b) adding and mixing any other components; and

c) compression moulding to the desired shape.

31. (Currently Amended) The process to manufacture [an] of the artefact according to claim 17, comprising the steps of:

a) forming a polymeric component in the presence of strengthened glycolic acid polymer composition ~~as according to claim 1~~ comprising glycolic acid (GA) as the co-polymer with the at least one other bioresorbable monomer, or the functional derivative of said co-polymer, having the tensile strength of at least 1100MPa and;

b) in situ curing of the monomers or other precursors to form said polymeric component and artefact.

32. (Currently Amended) The process for the manufacture of ~~artefacts~~ the artefact according to claim 17, which includes the step of:

compression moulding other polymeric, non-polymeric or blend of polymeric and non-polymeric components in the presence of said fibres.

33. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 30, which further includes the step of:

compression moulding other polymeric, non-polymeric or blend of polymeric and non-polymeric components in the presence of said fibres.

34. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 32, which further includes the step of:

forming a polymeric component in the presence of said fibres by in situ curing of monomers or other precursors for said polymeric component.

35. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 34, in which the monomer used does not liberate a by-product on polymerisation.

36. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 34, in which at least one of the monomers is a ring opening monomer that opens to form a poly hydroxyl acid.

37. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 36, in which at least one monomer is a lactide, a glycolide, a caprolactone, a carbonate or mixtures thereof.

38. (New) An artefact comprising a polymer composition, or the functional derivative thereof produced by the process according to claim 13.

39. (New) The artefact of claim 38 comprising at least two polymer components.

40. (New) The artefact of claim 39 comprising 10% to 80% by volume the polymer composition or the functional derivative thereof.

41. (New) The artefact of claim 38, in which at least one of the polymer components is bioresorbable.

42. (New) The artefact of claim 41, in which the bioresorbable polymer comprises a poly-hydroxy acid, a poly-lactic acid, a poly-caprolactone, a poly-acetal or a poly-anhydride.

43. (New) The artefact of claim 38 comprising at least one non-bioresorbable polymer component.

44. (New) The artefact of claim 43, in which the non-bioresorbable polymer comprises poly-propylene, poly-ethylene, poly-methyl methacrylate or expoxy resin.

45. (New) The artefact of claim 38 further containing at least one non-polymeric component.

46. (New) The artefact of claim 45, in which the non-polymeric component comprises a ceramic, hydroxyapatite or tricalcium phosphate.

47. (New) The artefact of claim 46, in which the non-polymeric component comprises a bioactive factor.

48. (New) The artefact of claim 47, in which the bioactive component comprises a natural or engineered protein, a ribonucleic acid, a deoxyribonucleic acid, a growth factor, a cytokine, an angiogenic factor or an antibody.

49. (New) The artefact according to claim 38, in which the artefact is in the form of a medical device.

50. (New) The artefact of claim 49, in which the device is a suture, a scaffold for tissue engineering or implantation, an orthopaedics implant, a complex shaped device or a bone fixation device.

51. (New) A process to manufacture of the artefact according to claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

a) placing appropriate lengths of strengthened glycolic acid polymer composition comprising glycolic acid (GA) as the co-polymer with the at least one other

bioresorbable monomer, or the functional derivative of said co-polymer, having the tensile strength of at least 1100MPa, into moulds;

b) adding and mixing any other components; and

c) compression moulding to the desired shape.

52. (New) The process to manufacture of the artefact according to claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

a) forming a polymeric component in the presence of strengthened glycolic acid polymer composition comprising glycolic acid (GA) as the co-polymer with the at least one other bioresorbable monomer, or the functional derivative of said co-polymer, having the tensile strength of at least 1100MPa, and;

b) in situ curing of the monomers or other precursors to form said polymeric component and artefact.

53. (New) The process for the manufacture of the artefact according to claim 38, which further includes the step of:

compression moulding other polymeric, non-polymeric or blend of polymeric and non-polymeric components in the presence of said fibres.

54. (New) The process of claim 51, which further includes the step of compression moulding other polymeric, non-polymeric or blend of polymeric and non-polymeric components in the presence of said fibres.

55. (New) The process of claim 53, which further includes the step of:
forming a polymeric component in the presence of said fibres by in situ curing of monomers or other precursors for said polymeric component.

56. (New) The process of claim 55, in which the monomer used does not liberate a by-product on polymerisation.

57. (New) The process of claim 55, in which at least one of the monomers is a ring opening monomer that opens to form a poly hydroxyl acid.

58. (New) The process of claim 57, in which at least one monomer is a lactide, a glycolide, a caprolactone, a carbonate or mixtures thereof.